



# Bosnia UPDATE

*A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.*

*Lloyd Spence*, Chairman

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## Quotes of the Week:

"There are reasonable grounds for believing that Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic committed the offenses with which they are charged."

-- Judge Claude Jorda, U.N. War Crimes Tribunal, 7/12/96.

"The best way to break the circle of violence is to break the circle of poverty."

-- U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor, 7/12/96.

"It's unfortunate that the Bosnian Serb people are continuing to be denied the truth of what really happened [in Srebrenica] by the state-controlled media. To glorify and ignore what happened there a year ago is reprehensible."

-- A Spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 7/11/96.

"Mladic is in complete control of his army...We do not deal with him. I have received several letters from Mladic. I do not answer those letters. I have received an invitation to lunch with Karadzic, which it did not answer. Karadzic is still in Pale. He still exercises considerable influence."

-- IFOR Commander U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, on the power and influence of the Bosnian Serb leadership, 7/10/96.

"Is this a multi-ethnic state now? No. Can we expect one by December? Probably not."

-- IFOR Commander U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, 7/10/96.

"We are fed-up with them, but they are protected...We are told to let them carry guns and do as they please."

-- A police officer in Zenica, on the presence of Islamic militants in Bosnia, 7/8/96.

## In Bosnia and the Balkans:

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) disqualifies seven Bosnian candidates from the Government's ruling Muslim party as punishment for a violent attack on a rival Muslim politician.

Two recent attacks on foreigners raise tension in Bosnia and increase concerns that NATO attempts to seize Bosnian Serb leaders could result in retaliation against foreigners.

NATO forces are deployed to confine Bosnian Serb Radovan Karadzic to his stronghold one day before warrants for his arrest are issued by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor travels to Croatia to complete the reconstruction mission initiated by his predecessor, Ronald Brown whose plans to rebuild the Balkans ended with a fatal plane crash.

After the initiation of a large-scale exhumation project, international investigators discover common graves containing dead Bosnian Muslims along with evidence of Bosnian Serb responsibility.

Bosnian Serbs accuse the U.N. and NATO of failing to provide security in Serb-controlled enclaves.

A U.S. soldier collapses and dies of a heart attack after routine exercises. The death marks the third U.S. soldier to die during the IFOR operation in Bosnia.

Ten French troops sustain injuries when their armored personnel carrier slips off a road and falls into a ravine.

Bosnian Serbs deploy tanks to defend the stronghold of Ratko Mladic and threaten to fire on U.S. helicopters, beginning a stand-off between the Serb forces and U.S. peacekeepers. In response, the NATO deploys approximately 20 aircraft and Apache attack helicopters.

The Muslim bloc wins Bosnia's first postwar election. The European Union administration for the city of Mostar declares the election valid.

Bosnian and Croatian officials agree on a compromise measure that would lead to the creation of a single military force.

U.S. commanders in Bosnia make the first major withdrawal of heavy armored forces, swapping two

battalions of tanks and infantry carriers for a like number of military police. The switch is reportedly designed to allow greater mobility and flexibility.

## In Washington:

The Clinton administration announces that the American-led effort to equip and train Muslim-Croat Federation forces will begin immediately now that the federation has adopted a law to merge the Muslim and Croat armies.

The White House announces that former chief negotiator Richard Holbrooke will return to the Balkans on a mission to convince Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic to remove Radovan Karadzic and Serb Army General Ratko Mladic from power.

CIA Director John Deutch and U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia John Menzies voice concern to Bosnian officials that Islamic militants imported to fight Serb rebels have returned to crime, threatening civilians in the former Yugoslav republic.

A recent United States Information Agency (USIA) poll indicates that the Bosnian Serb leaders still enjoy popular support. General Ratko Mladic has the support of 87 percent of his countrymen, while Radovan Karadzic has a 68 percent approval rating.

House Republicans, led by Speaker Newt Gingrich, express apprehension about hints that President Clinton may deploy some U.S. troops to the Balkans after the current peacekeeping mission there ends in early 1997.

The House National Security Committee cites the problem of significant mission cost growth and rejects a Department of Defense request to reprogram about \$100 million from weapons accounts to pay for U.S. operations in Bosnia.

## In London:

The United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia fail to reach an agreement on whether to impose economic sanctions on Serbia because of President Milosevic's failure to remove Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic from power.

## In The Hague:

The United Nations war crimes tribunal issues international arrest warrants for the Bosnian Serbs' political leader, Radovan Karadzic, and military chief, General Ratko Mladic, who are charged with genocide and other crimes in the four-year Bosnian war.

Prosecutors urge the major powers to arrest Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic and turn them over to the International War Crimes Tribunal.

In testimony before the International War Crimes Tribunal, survivors of the Srebrenica massacre claimed that they saw Bosnian Serb Army General Ratko Mladic order mass executions of Bosnian Muslim civilians.

Lawyers representing Radovan Karadzic state that Karadzic is eager to prove his innocence, but will not

stand trial before the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal unless there is a guarantee of fairness.

## In New York:

The Bosnian ambassador denounces the United Nations and the Bosnian Serbs on the anniversary of the slaughter of thousands of Muslims in Srebrenica.

United Nations officials sharply condemn Bosnian Serb celebrations to mark the anniversary of Srebrenica's fall.

## Compliance Watch:

A Dutch colonel says that the United Nations and NATO failed to provide adequate support to United Nations peacekeepers during last year's Bosnian Serb assault on Srebrenica.

Bosnian Serbs block Finnish forensic experts from excavating a mass grave in Kravice.

Islamic militants are reportedly employing techniques such as forced marriages, kidnappings, and occupation of apartments and houses to remain in Bosnia in violation of the Dayton peace agreement, and may be a threat to U.S. forces.

Previous issues and additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.